

Women's Amateur Golf Between the Wars: The Dominance of Glenna Collett Vare

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The purpose of this presentation is to cover the career of amateur golfer Glenna Collett Vare. She won our national championship a total of six times: 1922, 1925, 1928, 1929, 1930, and finally in 1935. This total is still a record. She also won the Canadian, French, and numerous other American golf titles during her career. One factor that will be stressed is that her greatness in golf was quite lengthy; she was at the top for almost two decades.

The paper will also explain Mrs. Vare's contributions to golf beyond her own competitive record. She helped initiate the biennial Curtis Cup Matches which started in 1932. Later she gave the Vare Trophy to the United States Golf Association for the Junior Girls' Champion. Each year the women professionals compete for another Vare Trophy, this one given by golfer Betty Jameson.

Also to be covered will be other interests of Mrs. Vare's. In addition to being the premier golfer, she was during the period covered an excellent competitive trap shooter and bridge player. Her early years in Providence, Rhode Island, the contributions of her father, her writings, and her marriage and family life will be explained. Her recent honors, including induction into the Women's Sports Hall of Fame as well as the Honoree at Jack Nicklaus's Memorial tournament in 1982, will be mentioned. There will be a brief update about her current life.

After these factual matters have been covered, the presentation will move into more speculative territory and try to explain what factors contributed to Glenna's greatness on the links. The physical, intellectual, and emotional strengths that this woman possesses will be outlined.



Bruce Bennett Ralph Ballou